

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 SOE-02
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 31 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR OBSERVED
THURSDAY THAT "BATTLE LINES NOW ARE CLEARLY DRAWN FOR GREAT
DEBATE ON NEW SALT AGREEMENT., SOUTHERLAND SAID CRITICS
FOCUS IN PARTICULAR ON PROJECTED THEORETICAL VULNERABILITY,
BY MID-1980S, OF U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILE FORCE. CRITICS
SAY ADMINISTRATION HAS NO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR

NUCLEAR WARFARE AND OUGHT TO SLOW DOWN SALT PROCESS UNTIL IT GETS ONE, SOUTHERLAND NOTED. HE SAID ADMINISTRATION NOW HA, MOBILIZED ITS COUNTERATTACK, IN FORM OF STUDY RELEASED BY ACDA, WHICH HOPES IT WILL REFUTE "ALARMIST" ARGUMENTS AGAINST NEW SALT AGREEMENT. ACDA STUDY CONCLUDES THAT U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES CURRENTLY ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND SOVIET NUCLEAR ATTACK AND TO RETALIATE WITH EVEN GREATER DESTRUCTIVE FORCE, SOUTHERLAND REPORTED. BY MID-1980S, STUDY INDICATED, CAPABILITY OF U.S. AND SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES WILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY EQUAL. "STUDY IS BASED NOT JUST ON WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS 'SIMPLE STATIC MEASURES,' SUCH AS NUMBERS OF BOMBERS AND MISSILES, BUT ALSO ON OTHER

FACTORS, SUCH AS READINESS OF NUCLEAR FORCES, THEIR ABILITY TO PENETRATE DEFENSES, AND THEIR ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY. BUT STUDY RELIES HEAVILY ON ABILITY OF U.S. TO DEVELOP AIR LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES AS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON. SOME OF CRITICS ARGUE THAT CRUISE HAS NOT YET PROVED ITSELF."

2. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON STAR, REPORTED THAT ACDA STUDY, WILL BE CIRCULATED WIDELY TO REBUT REPORT ISSUED RECENTLY BY SANTA FE CORPORATION OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, PREPARED FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY OF PENTAGON, WHICH SAID SOVIET UNION HAD REACHED OR WAS MOVING TOWARDS SUPERIORITY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TEN OF 13 STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. THAT STUDY WAS HAILED BY CRITICS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS AS EVIDENCE THAT U.S. WAS FALLING FAR BEHIND RUSSIANS AND THAT SALT AGREEMENT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO AMERICAN INTERESTS. BUT ARMS CONTROL AGENCY REPORT SAID THAT WHILE SOVIET UNION LEADS U.S. IN SOME 'STATIC' COMPARISONS, U.S. WAS 'CLEARLY AHEAD TODAY IN TERMS OF TARGET DESTRUCTION CAPABILITY.' AND IT SAID THAT BY MID-1980S -- PROJECTED SALT AGREEMENT WILL END IN 1985 -- ABILITY OF U.S. TO RETALIATE WITH MISSILES AND BOMBERS WOULD GO BEYOND CURRENT CAPABILITY EVEN THOUGH OVERALL STRATEGIC FORCES BETWEEN RUSSIA AND AMERICA WOULD BE 'ESSENTIALLY EQUAL' IN NEXT DECADE.... ARMS CONTROL STUDY SAID THAT USUAL MEASURES USED TO COMPARE SOVIET AND AMERICAN STRATEGIC FORCES DEALT WITH SUCH FACTORS AS NUMBER OF BOMBERS, MISSILES, WEAPONS, THROWWEIGHT AND MEGATONS. BUT REPORT SAID OTHER FACTORS WERE MORE IMPORTANT, SUCH AS 'READINESS OF FORCES, THEIR SURVIVABILITY, THEIR ABILITY TO PENETRATE DEFENSES, THEIR ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY AND WHAT IT IS THEY HAVE TO ATTACK.' ON BASIS OF THIS 'CAPABILITY INDEX,' STUDY SAID, U.S. WAS AHEAD OF SOVIET UNION TODAY 'IN TARGET DESTRUCTION CAPABILITY. AND IT SAID BOTH SIDES

WOULD BECOME 'MORE CAPABLE' BY MID-1980S WITH AMERICAN ABILITY TO RETALIATE AFTER SOVIET SURPRISE ATTACK IN MID-1980S EXCEEDING CURRENT ABILITY."

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST GEORGE F. WILL, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, OBSERVED THAT "SALT, CENTERPIECE OF ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY, IS IN TROUBLE IN CONGRESS AND IN COUNTRY FOR SAME REASON ENERGY PROGRAM, CENTERPIECE OF DOMESTIC POLICY, IS IN TROUBLE: DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT CANNOT CONVINCE ENOUGH DEMOCRATS." WILL SAID ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL WARNKE LAST WEEK CALLED SALT TO NATION'S ATTENTION AGAIN, "AND HIS METHOD OF DOING SO ILLUSTRATES CONTINUING TENSIONS WITHIN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. WARNKE, CHIEF SALT NEGOTIATOR, SAYS CARTER ADMINISTRATION UNCLASSIFIED

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IS CONSIDERING SENDING NEXT SALT AGREEMENT TO SENATE AS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN AS TREATY. WARNKE'S TRIAL BALLOON HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN AND COVERED WITH DERISION. BUT ADMINISTRATION IS -- OR WAS -- CONSIDERING AN END RUN AROUND CONSTITUTION BECAUSE RATIFICATION OF TREATY WILL REQUIRE 67 VOTES, MANY MORE THAN TREATY IS APT TO GET. IT IS INSTRUCTIVE THAT ADMINISTRATION FEARS SENDING TREATY TO SENATE THAT HAS 62 TO 38 DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY." ALSO INSTRUCTIVE, WILL SAID, IS "VITUPERATIVE FUND-RAISING LETTER" RECENTLY SENT TO DEMOCRATIC ACTIVISTS BY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN JOHN WHITE, WHO PROFESSED ALARM ABOUT "RADICAL RIGHT" WHO, WHITE SAID, WANT "TO TURN CLOCK BACK." WILL SAID WHITE IS MOST EMPHATIC ABOUT NEEDING MONEY TO COMBAT OPPONENTS OF ADMINISTRATION'S SALT POLICIES. WHITE, ACCORDING TO WILL, SAID "ULTRA-RIGHT" HAS "ALREADY BEGUN" TO OPPOSE THOSE POLICIES. WILL POINTED OUT THAT "MANY RESPECTED DEMOCRATS" (SENATORS JACKSON, MOYNIHAN, NUNN, ADMIRAL ZUMWALT, EUGENE ROSTOW AND PAUL NITZE) "ARE MOST IMPORTANT LEADERS OF GROWING COALITION OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ALARMED BY ADMINISTRATION'S SALT POLICIES. NOT ONE OF THOSE DEMOCRATS IS AN 'ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE.'" VANCE

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